

Message Text

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STADIS//////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: HEW RYAN IS LEAVING ARA NEXT WEEK TO TAKE ON SOME SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR BOB SAYRE IN THE INSPECTION CORPS. A HOUSE BILL PROVIDING FOR REDUCTIONS IN OUR GSA STOCKPILE OF TIN WAS DEFEATED IN SUBCOMMITTEE. SENATE IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT. A MEXICAN OFFICIAL PASSES ON A REPORT THAT POPPY CULTIVATION IS ON THE INCREASE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. CENTRAL AMERICAN MEAT EXPORTERS ARE PUSHING TO THE LIMITS OF THEIR ALLOCATION LEVELS MUCH TOO QUICKLY; WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS. PART OF THE REORGANIZATION CONCEPT - HAVING THE ARA FUNCTIONAL OFFICES TAKE ACTION ON SOME MATTERS PREVIOUSLY HANDLED BY THE DESKS-IS FALLING INTO PLACE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE WILL MISS HEW WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH OVER THESE MANY YEARS TO OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. BUT HE WILL

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STILL BE AVAILABLE TO GIVE US A HELPING HAND FROM TIME TO

TIME. BILL LUERS WILL MOVE UP TO BE SENIOR DEPUTY AND CHARLIE BRAY WILL TAKE THE OTHER DEPUTY POSITION. CHARLIE WILL BRING SPECIAL TALENTS AND EXPERIENCE TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS WITH THE PUBLIC, THE CONGRESS, THE PRESS AND THE BUREAUCRACY.

3. TIN: A BILL IN CONGRESS, PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF TIN FROM THE STOCKPILE WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED IN A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE; THE CHANCES ARE LESS THAN 50/50 THAT THE BILL WILL BE REINTRODUCED, THE MAJOR CONSTRAINT BEING THE LIMITED TIME LEFT IN THIS SESSION. MEANWHILE, BOLIVIA AMBASSADOR CRESPO CALLED ON ME TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN, ADDING THAT THE STOCKPILE IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND AN OPEC-STYLE TIN CARTEL. IN ANOTHER MATTER RELATING TO TIN, THE SFRC THIS WEEK FAVORABLY VOTED OUT THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT; THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT SOMETIME AFTER LABOR DAY.

4. MEXICO/NARCOTICS: BILL LUERS MET ON TUESDAY WITH SHELDON VANCE, DEA'S PETER BENSINGER AND MEXICO'S TOP NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL, DR. GERTZ. GERTZ IS HERE CONSULTING ON THE BEGINNING OF THE FALL ERADICATION PROGRAM FOR OPIUM POPPIES. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL CONTINUE THE PROGRAM BUT IS CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT STILL KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT THE DIMENSIONS AND SCALE OF OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH MEXICO. GERTZ ALSO SAID THAT THE COSTA RICAN POLICE ARE SAYING THAT POPPY CROPS ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN COSTA RICA AND ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA; COMMENTS ON THIS LAST POINT ARE WELCOME.

5. MEAT EXPORTS TO US: PROBLEMS ARE CONTINUING IN COSTA RICA AND HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED IN NICARAGUA OVER ALLOCATION LEVELS FOR SURPLUS MEAT EXPORTS TO THE US. (IN THE CASE OF COSTA RICA, THEIR CURRENT SHIPPING RATES ARE SUCH THAT THE ALLOCATION LEVEL FOR THE YEAR WILL BE REACHED AROUND THE END OF THE MONTH.) THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT FOR AN INCREASE IN THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVELS BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE EXERTED BY US CATTLEMEN, DIS-SATISFIED OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD OF DEPRESSED PRICES.

PAUL TAYLOR OF EB HAS BEEN IN CENTRAL AMERICA THIS WEEK

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CONSULTING WITH THE THREE GOVERNMENTS, CONVEYING THIS INFORMATION AND TRYING TO IRON OUT DIFFICULTIES. TAYLOR HAS ALSO NOTIFIED THEM THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1976 MEAT RESTRAINT PROGRAM ARE BEING ASKED TO SIGN AMENDMENTS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE US THAT WOULD COUNT MEAT COMING THROUGH THE MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO, FOREIGN TRADE ZONE AS PART OF THEIR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ALLOCATION; THIS IS BEING DONE ACROSS THE BOARD, ALTHOUGH

SOME PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT SHIPPED THROUGH MAYAGUEZ, AS PART OF A GENERAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MEAT EXPORTERS EVADING THE PURPOSE OF RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS.

6. REORGANIZATION: STEVE ROGERS (DIRECTOR OF THE ARA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL POLICY) CHAIRED A BUREAU

MEETING TO INTRODUCE HIS STAFF AND EXPLAIN THE FUNCTIONAL SPECIALTY OF EACH TO THE OFFICE DIRECTORS AND COUNTRY/ FUNCTIONAL OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU. NOW THAT WE ARE A LEANER BUREAU, WITH THE "DESKS" PARED TO THE BONE, WE WILL BE LOOKING TO STEVE AND THE OTHER REGIONAL OFFICES - REGIONAL AND POLITICAL PROGRAMS (RPP) HEADED BY JOHN KING, AND DICK BARNEBEY'S POLICY PLANNING, PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS (PPC) - TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE ON SOME MATTERS, COORDINATING WITH THE DESKS, RATHER THAN VICE VERSA. STEVE'S PRESENTATION WAS A GOOD KICK-OFF.

7. CABLE SUMMARIES: SOME OF THE EXCELLENT CABLES YOU SEND DO NOT GET THE WIDE READERSHIP THEY DESERVE FOR LACK OF SUMMARIES. SHORT CABLES ARE BETTER THAN LONG ONES; BUT, IF YOU HAVE A SUBJECT THAT REQUIRES A CABLE LONGER THAN TWO PAGES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE A SUMMARY DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE HIGH POINTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OR ACTION REQUIRED. SUMMARIES ON SHORTER CABLES ARA ALSO WELCOME.

ROBINSON

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